



VIVEKANANDA

HE KINDLED THE SPIRIT OF MODERN INDIA

Vol 517 | ₹90





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VIVEKANANDA



NINETEENTH CENTURY INDIA. THE SPIRIT OF HINDUISM LAY HIDDEN UNDER A DEBRIS OF RITUALS — RITUALS DISOWNED BY THE INDIAN INTELLECTUALS AND SCORNFUL BY THE RULING BRITISH. AT SUCH A TIME WAS BORN TO VISHWANATH DATTA AND BHUVANESHWARI OF CALCUTTA, A SON WHOM THEY NAMED NARENDRANATH.

AS A BOY, NARENDRANATH WAS STRONG-WILLED BUT RESTLESS. ONE DAY —



MA, BILEY HAS TAKEN AWAY MY DOLL AGAIN.

BILEY WAS NARENDRANATH'S PET-NAME.

BILEY! GIVE IT BACK TO HER!

NO, MA, I WON'T.



WHEN THE DOLL WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM —



BUT HIS MOTHER KNEW OF A WAY TO CONTROL HIM.



THE MAGIC OF THE NAME IMMEDIATELY QUIETENED NARENDRANATH.



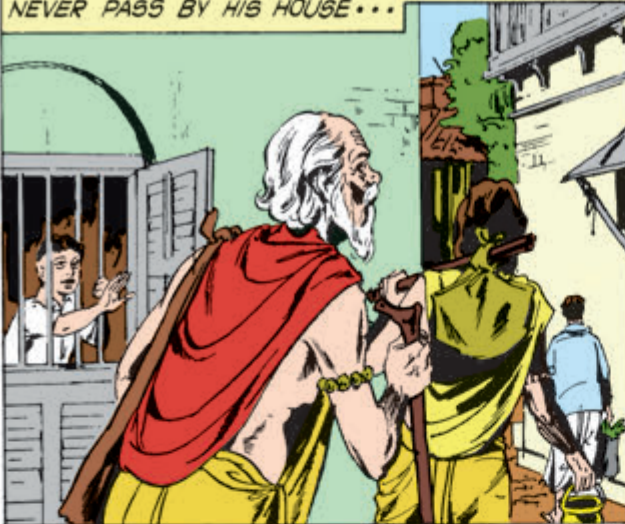
NARENDRANATH WAS A BORN LEADER, NOT ONLY TO HIS TWO BROTHERS AND TWO SISTERS, BUT TO ALL THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHILDREN.



A KING NEEDS REVENUE. YOU BRING ME SWEETS. YOU...BRING ME MARBLES...



THOUGH HE LOVED TO PLAY KING, WHAT FASCINATED HIM MOST WERE THE SANYASIS* IN THEIR SAFFRON ROBES. THESE WANDERING MONKS COULD NEVER PASS BY HIS HOUSE...



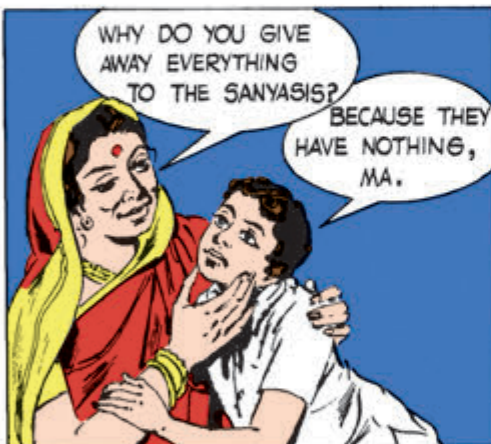
... WITHOUT RECEIVING EVERYTHING THAT WAS WITHIN HIS REACH.

GOD BLESS YOU, CHILD.

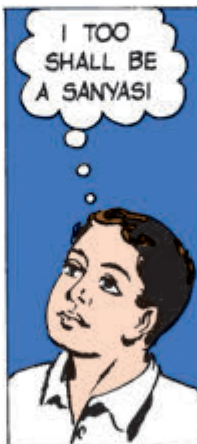


WHY DO YOU GIVE AWAY EVERYTHING TO THE SANYASIS?

BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOTHING, MA.



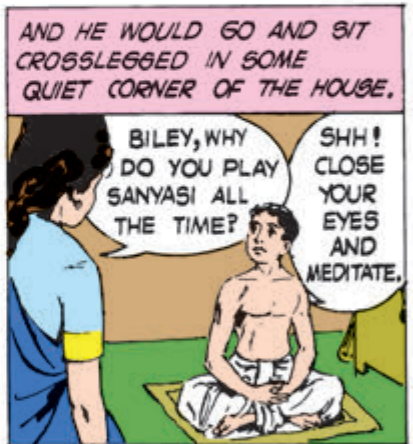
I TOO SHALL BE A SANYASI



AND HE WOULD GO AND SIT CROSSLEGGED IN SOME QUIET CORNER OF THE HOUSE.

BILEY, WHY DO YOU PLAY SANYASI ALL THE TIME?

SHH! CLOSE YOUR EYES AND MEDITATE.



ONE DAY, WHILE NAREN WAS AT THIS GAME —

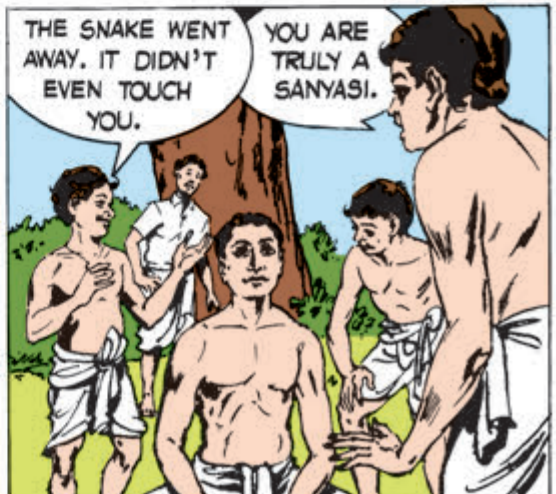
BILEY, RUN!



BUT NAREN SAT WHERE HE WAS.

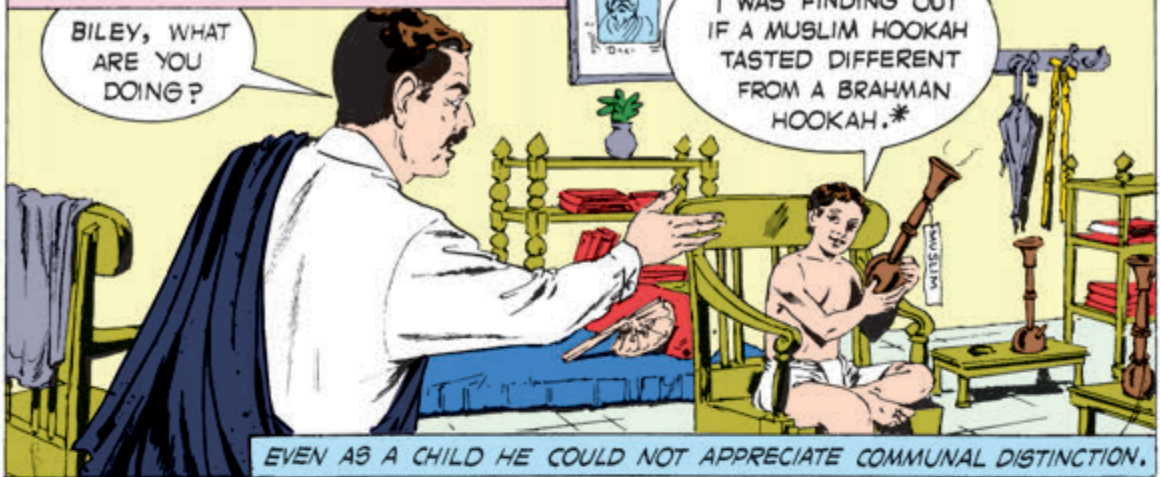
THE SNAKE WENT AWAY. IT DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH YOU.

YOU ARE TRULY A SANYASI.

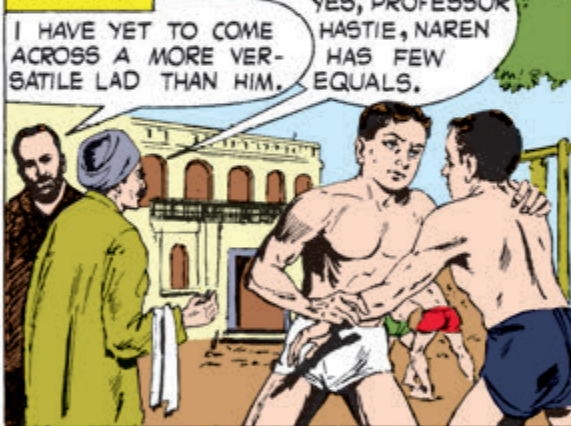


* WANDERING MONK.

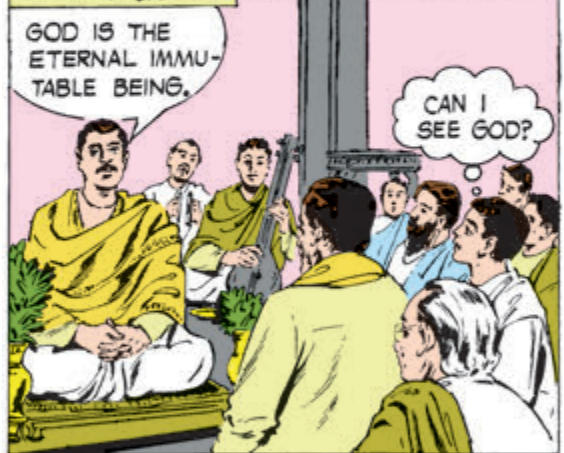
FORTHRIGHT LIKE MANY CHILDREN, NAREN WAS BOLD TOO. ONE DAY, HIS FATHER WAS SHOCKED TO FIND HIM NEAR HIS HOOKAHS.



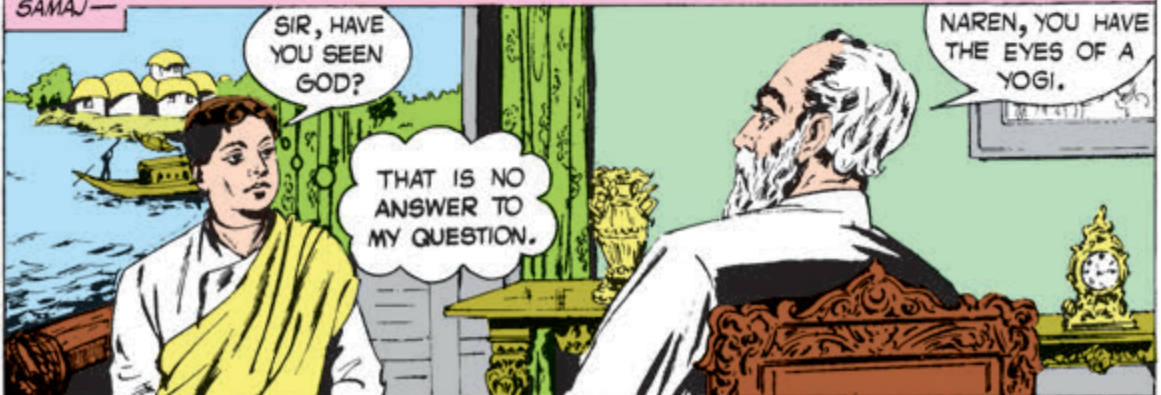
AS THE BOY GREW UP, HE TOOK CARE TO DEVELOP HIS BODY AND HIS MIND. HIS PERSONALITY STOOD OUT IN SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.



NAREN'S ENQUIRING MIND SOON REJECTED IDOLS AND LED HIM TO THE BRAHMO SAMAJ.*



SOON, HE WAS BURNING WITH THE DESIRE TO KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD. ONE DAY, WHILE HE WAS ALONE WITH DEVENDRANATH TAGORE, THE LEADER OF THE BRAHMO SAMAJ—



* A REFORMIST SECT FOUNDED BY RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY.

IN HIS CEASELESS AND INSISTENT QUEST FOR GOD, HE APPROACHED MANY A PARSON AND PANDIT.



ONE DAY, AT A RELIGIOUS MEETING, HE MET SURENDRANATH MITRA, A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.

NAREN, I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN ANSWER YOUR QUESTION—SHRI RAMAKRISHNA OF DAKSHINESHWAR.*

HAS HE REALLY SEEN GOD?

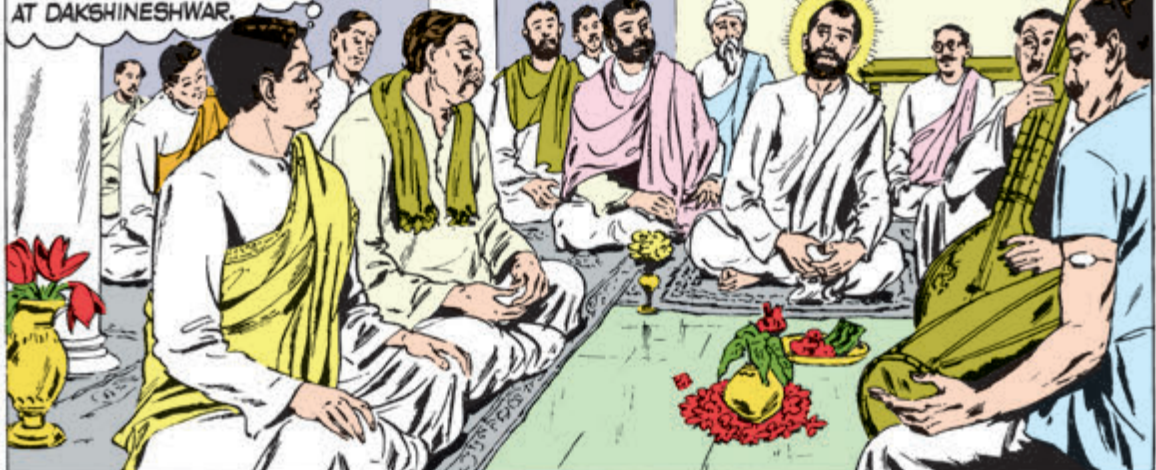


YOU CAN ASK HIM. HE WILL BE GIVING A DISCOURSE AT MY HOUSE TOMORROW.

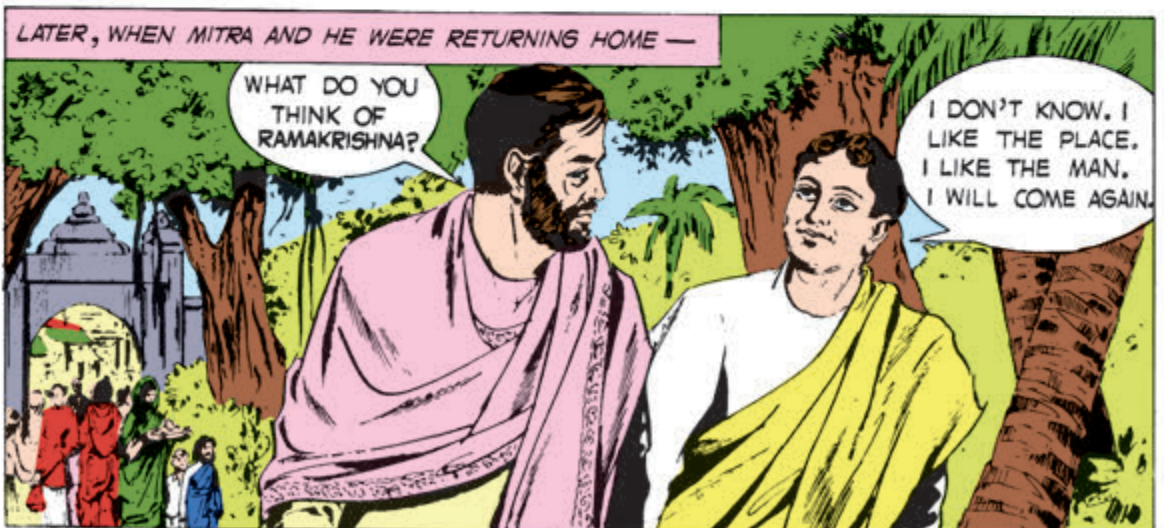
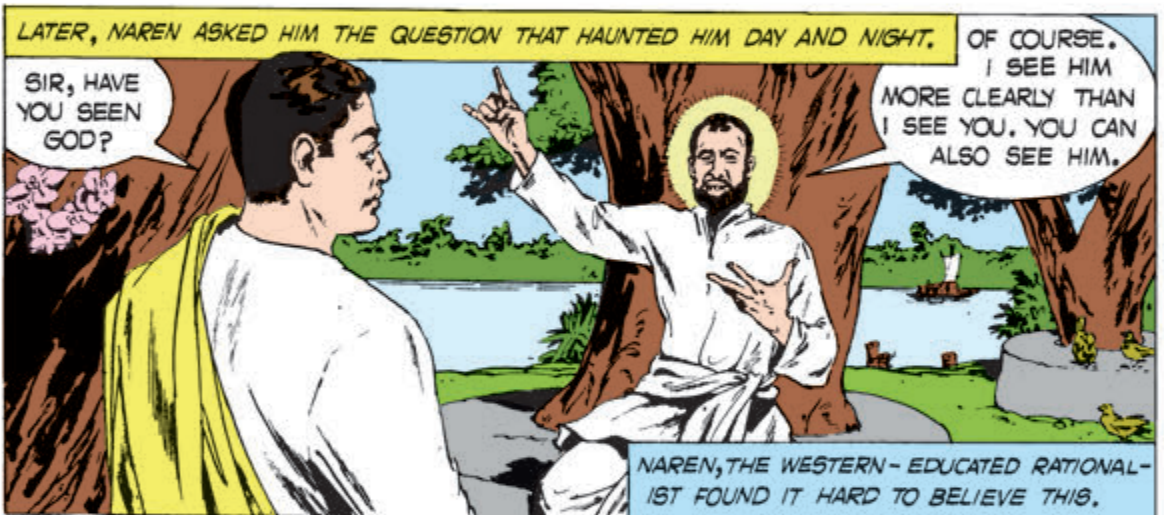
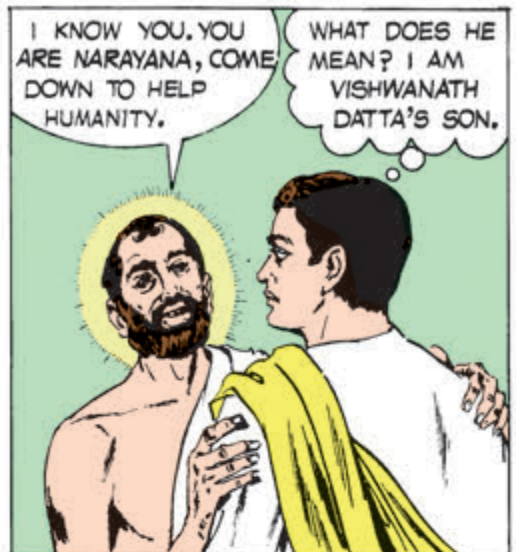
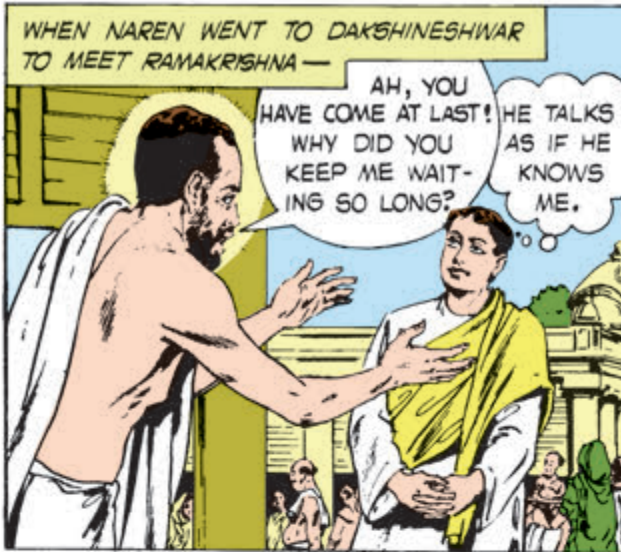


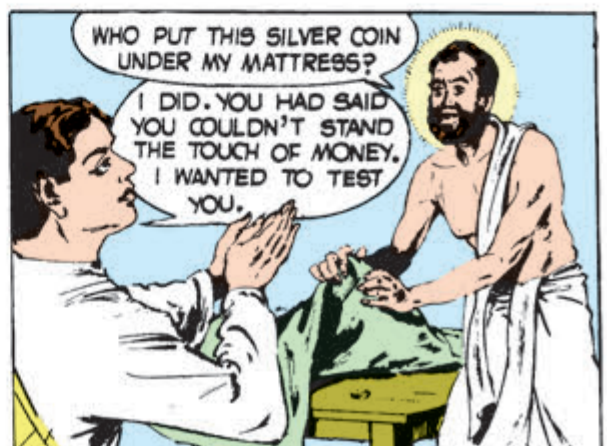
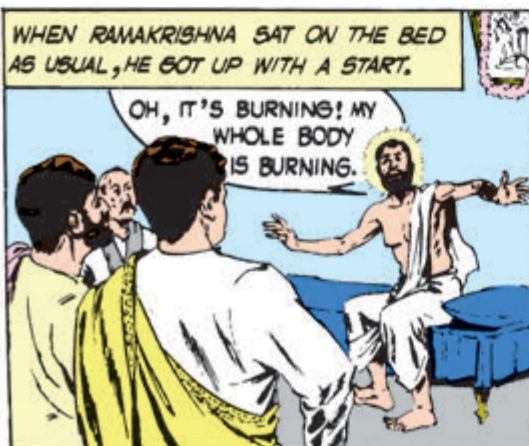
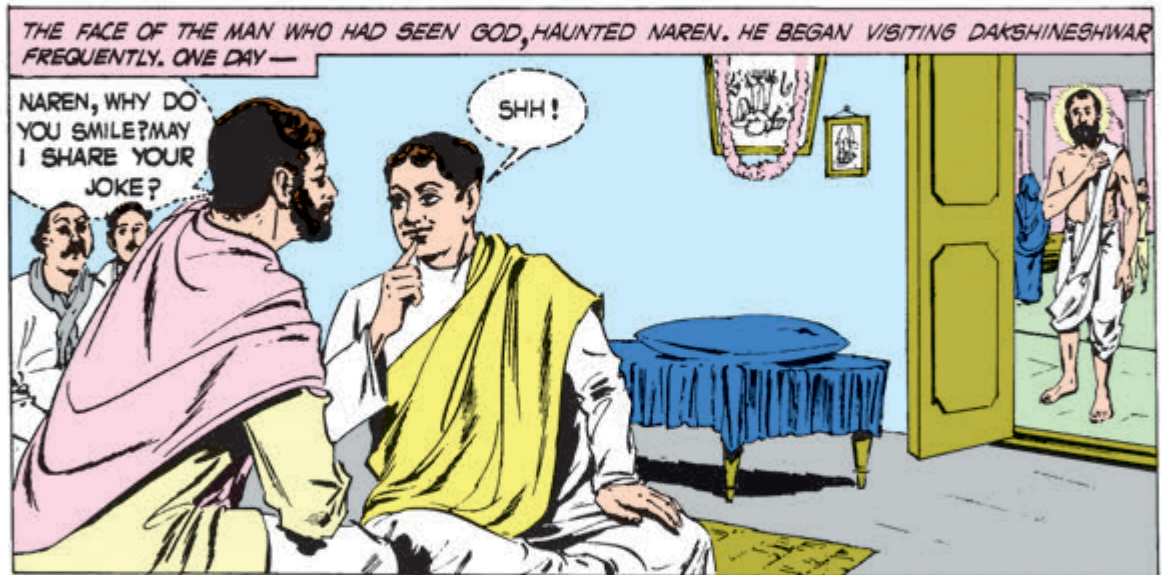
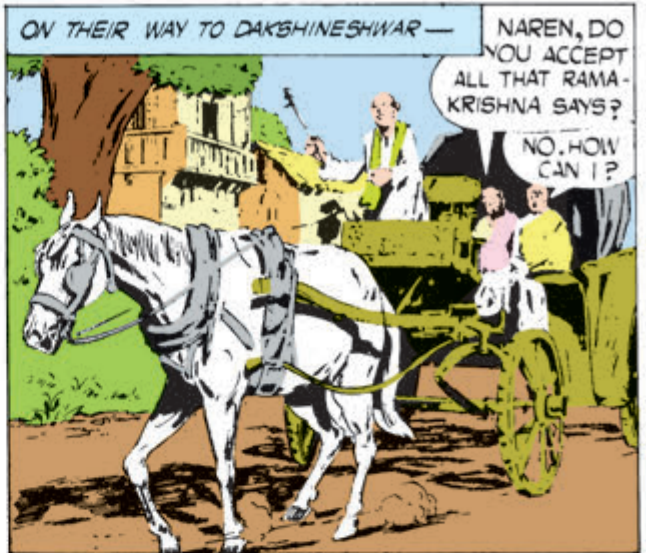
THE NEXT DAY, AT SURENDRANATH MITRA'S PLACE —

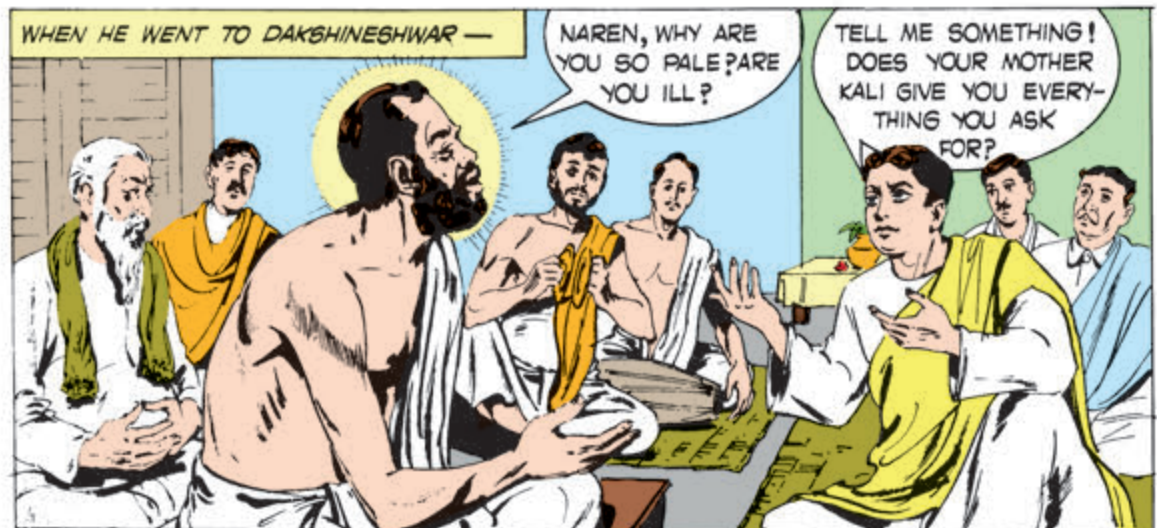
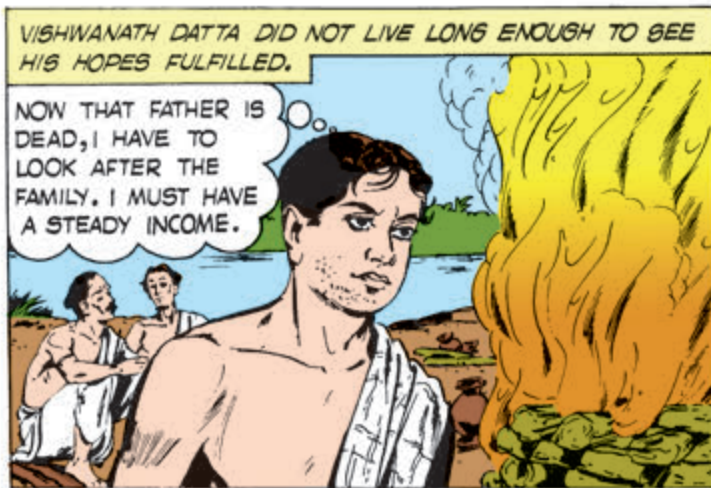
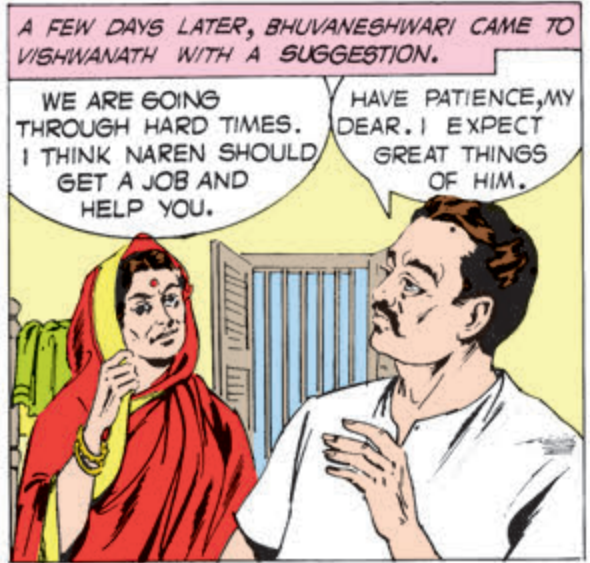
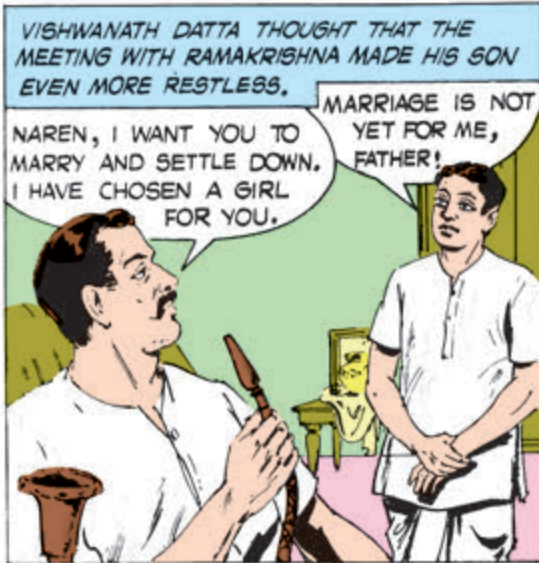
I WILL GO AND SEE HIM AT DAKSHINESHWAR.

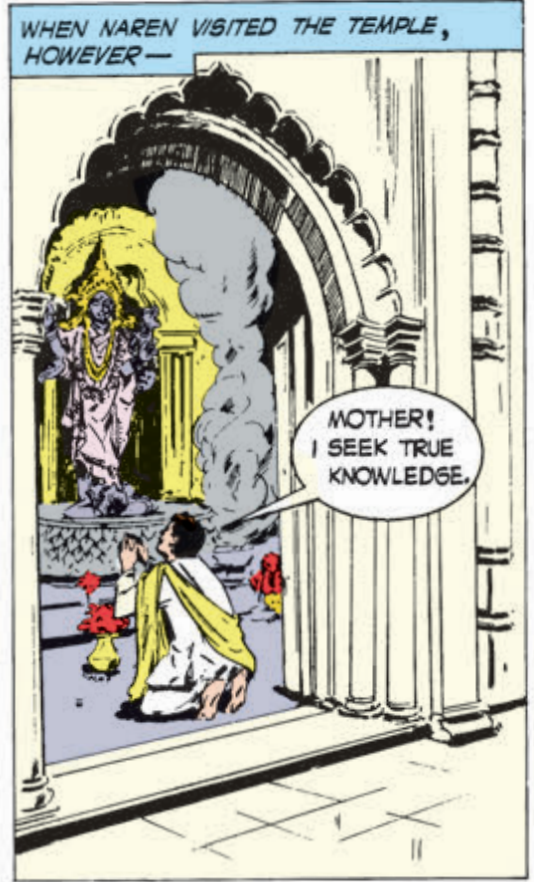


* A PLACE FOUR MILES TO THE NORTH OF CALCUTTA.



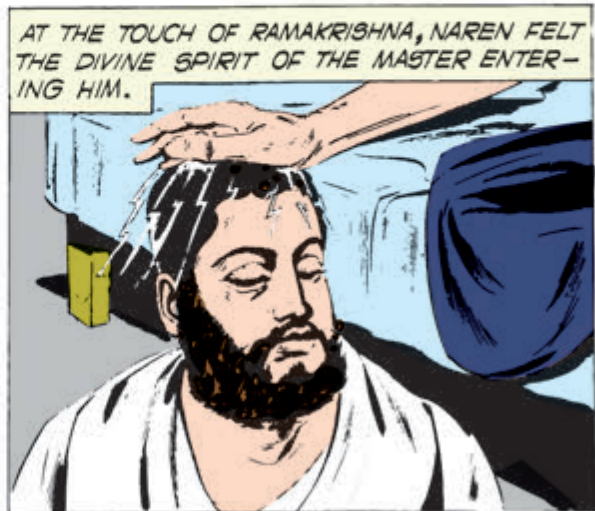
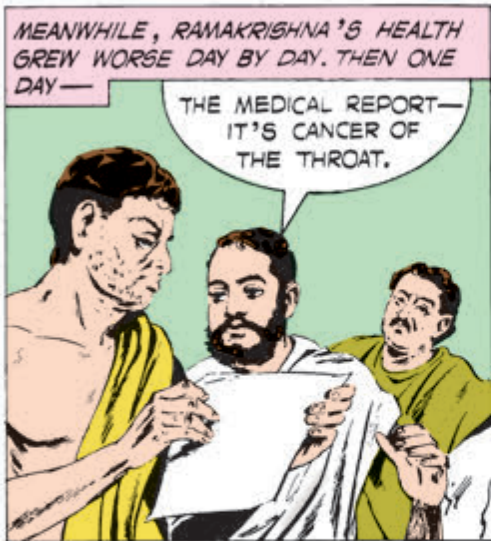












AFTER RAMAKRISHNA'S BODY WAS CREMATED —

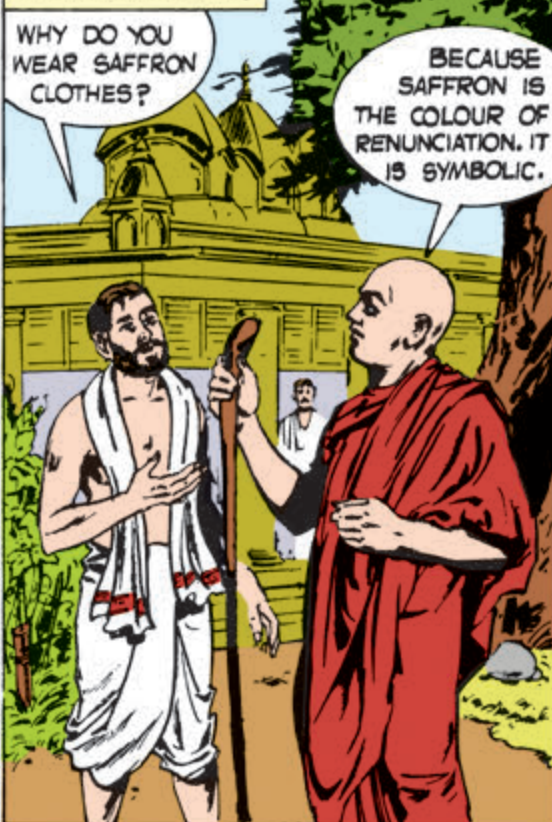
WE MUST CARRY ON
THE MASTER'S WORK.
WE SHALL ALL LIVE
TOGETHER AT
BARANAGAR.



NAREN DONNED A MONK'S GARB AND HAD
HIS HEAD SHAVED.

WHY DO YOU
WEAR SAFFRON
CLOTHES?

BECAUSE
SAFFRON IS
THE COLOUR OF
RENUNCIATION. IT
IS SYMBOLIC.



HE THEN WENT TO SARADA DEVI.*

I MUST NOW
LEAVE YOU, MOTHER.
I HAVE WORK
TO DO.

MAY ALL
SUCCESS BE
YOURS IN YOUR
CHOSEN
MISSION.

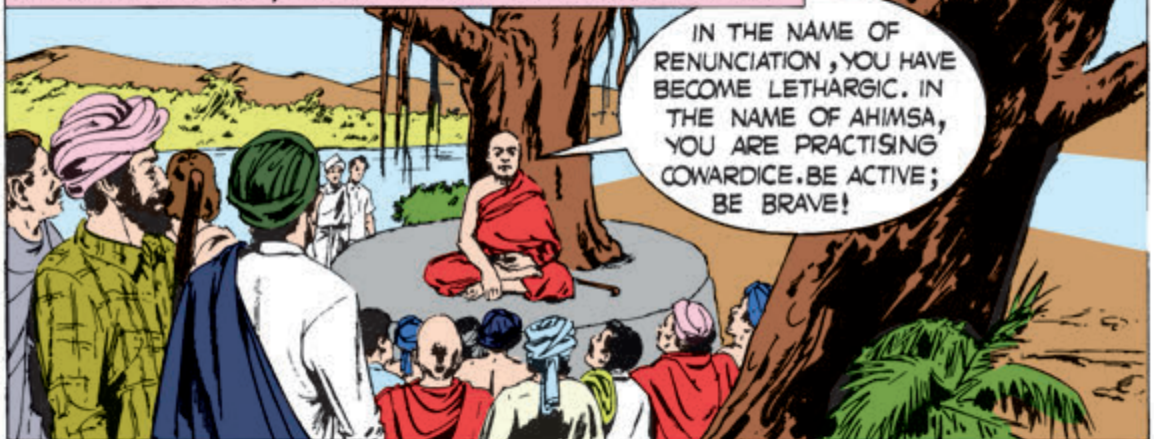


* SRI RAMAKRISHNA'S WIFE

THUS THE SANYASI WITH STAFF IN HAND, STARTED ON HIS PILGRIMAGE.



WHEREVER HE WENT, PEOPLE RUSHED TO HEAR HIM SPEAK.



ONE DAY, AS HE WAS RESTING AFTER A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY, IN A FOREST —



THE TIGER LOOKED AT HIM AND SLOWLY WENT AWAY.



DURING HIS LONG TRAVELS IN INDIA, HE KNEW MANY MEN.



NO, SWAMIJI. DON'T USE MY HOOKAH! I AM AN UNTOUCHABLE.

HE WOULD SLEEP IN THE HUTS OF PARIAHS...



...AND CONVERSE ON EQUAL TERMS WITH MAHARAJAS.

ONE DAY, AT THE ROYAL COURT OF ALWAR—



WELCOME, SWAMIJI. WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU.



GOD BLESS YOU!

THE YOUNG, WESTERNISED MAHARAJA WAS A SCEPTIC.

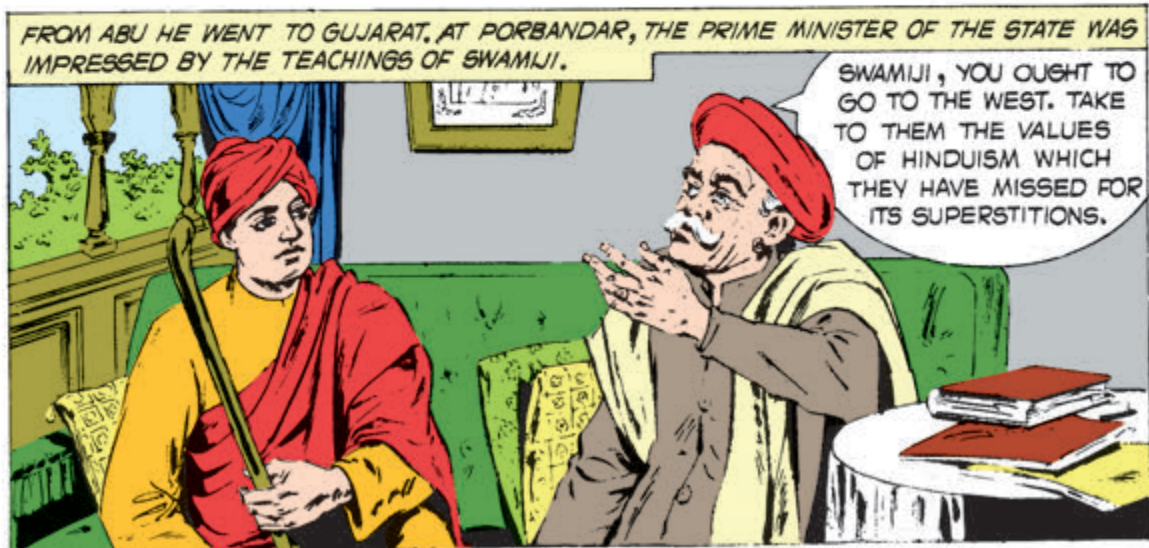
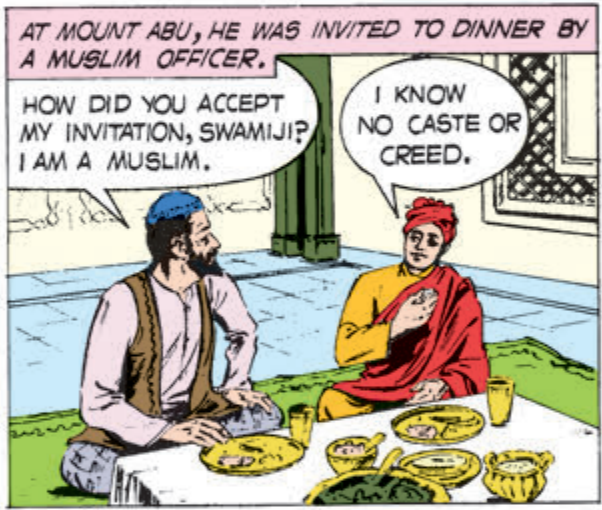


SWAMIJI, YOU TALK OF GOD. DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE STONE GODS IN THE TEMPLES?

YES.



BUT HOW CAN GOD BE A THING MADE OF STONE?



WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD IN MIND WAS THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO. ONE DAY —

SWAMIJI, WILL YOU GO TO CHICAGO TO ATTEND THE PARLIAMENT?

PERHAPS IT WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE MY COUNTRY. BUT I'LL DECIDE LATER.



DOWN SOUTH, SWAMIJI REACHED KANYAKUMARI.

AT LAST ! I HAVE SEEN MY COUNTRY FROM THE HIMALAYAS TO KANYAKUMARI. I KNEW HER RICHES. I HAVE SEEN HOW POOR SHE IS.



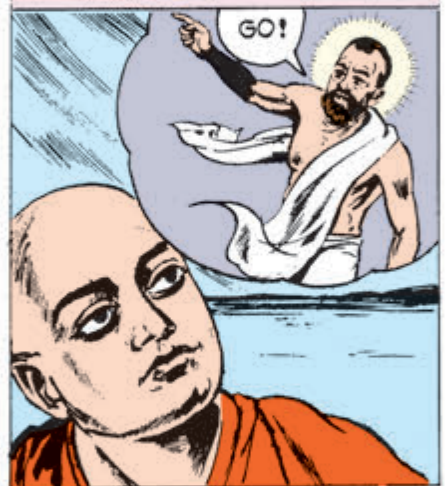
SWAMIJI, STARTED HIS JOURNEY NORTHWARDS. AT MADRAS BEACH —

SWAMIJI, WE HAVE COLLECTED THE FUNDS TO SEND YOU TO THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS.

BUT I HAVEN'T YET DECIDED TO GO.



THEN ONE DAY, HE HAD A VISION —



HE THEN MADE UP HIS MIND. HELP CAME FROM UNEXPECTED QUARTERS.

SWAMIJI, THE MAHARAJA OF KHETRI HAS REQUESTED YOU TO SEE HIM.

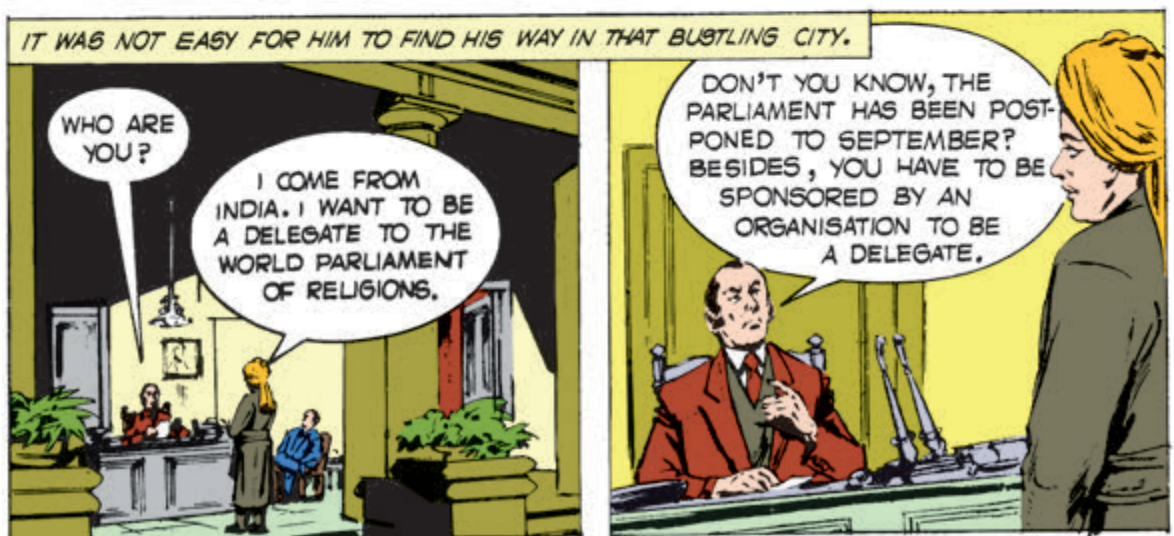
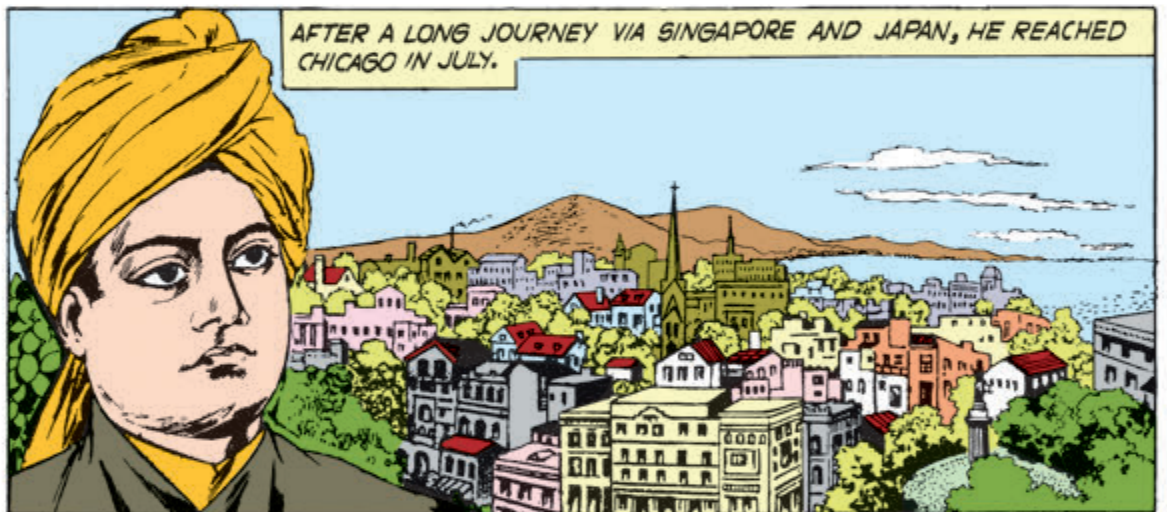
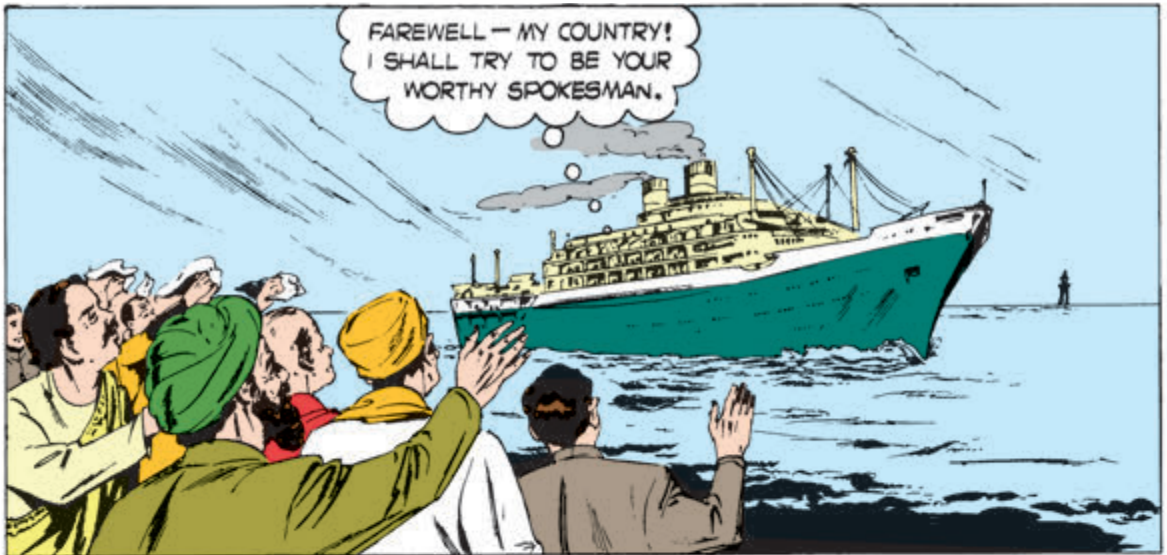


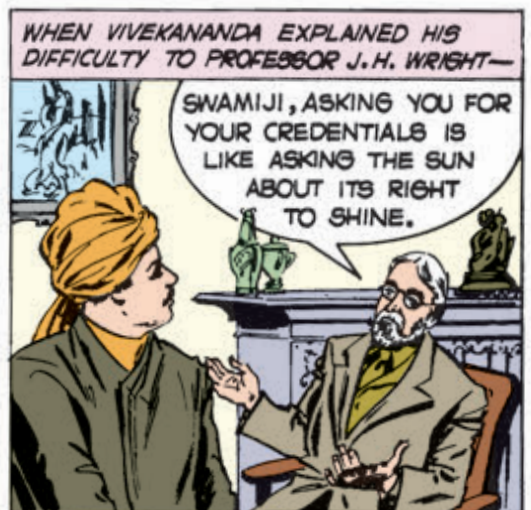
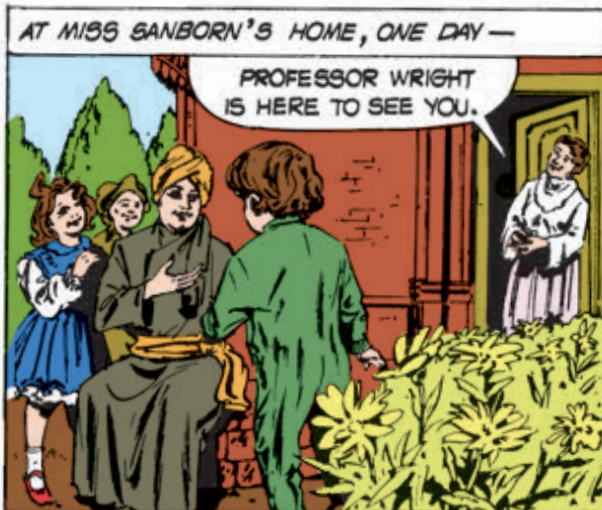
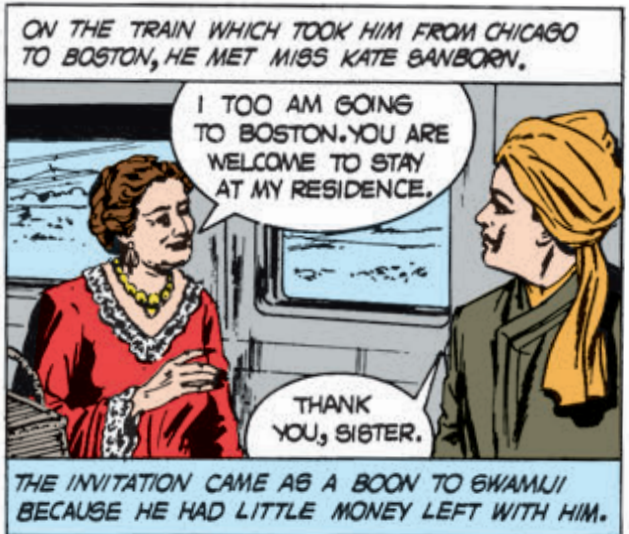
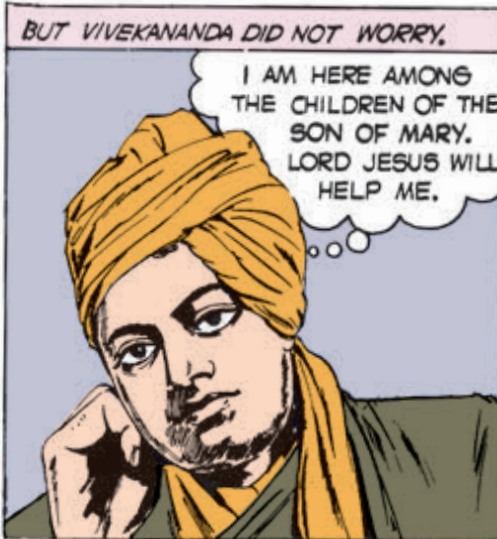
AT KHETRI —

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA ! PLEASE ACCEPT MY HUMBLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS YOUR TRIP TO CHICAGO.

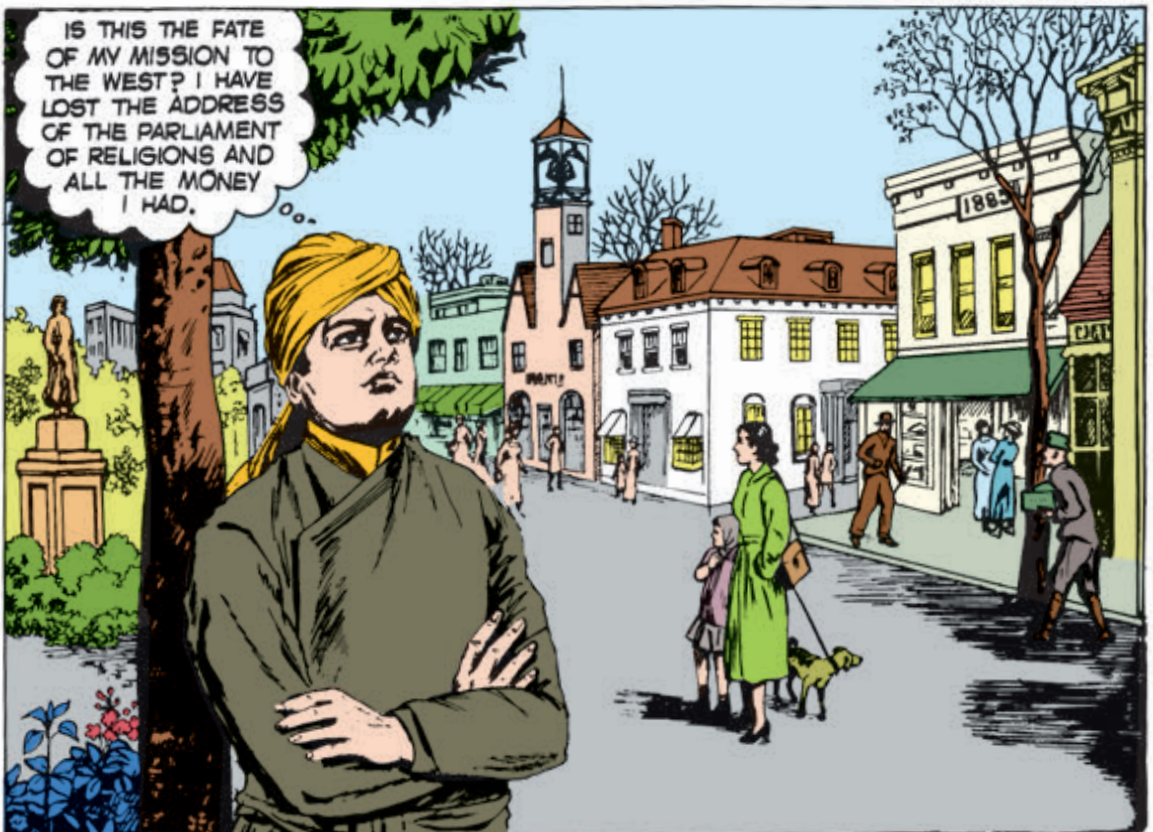


AFTER THIS, SWAMIJI CAME TO BE KNOWN AS VIVEKANANDA*.









HE WALKED UP TO MANY A HOUSE ALONG THE FASHIONABLE STREETS OF CHICAGO AND MET WITH MANY A REBUFF.



WILL YOU PLEASE GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT?

GO AWAY,



AT LAST, OBSERVING ALL THIS FROM A WINDOW OF HER APARTMENT, MRS. HALE, A KIND OLD LADY, CAME DOWN TO MEET HIM.

YOUNG MAN, YOU SEEM TO BE IN TROUBLE CAN I HELP YOU?



WHEN VIVEKANANDA EXPLAINED HIS DIFFICULTIES —

PLEASE COME HOME WITH ME.



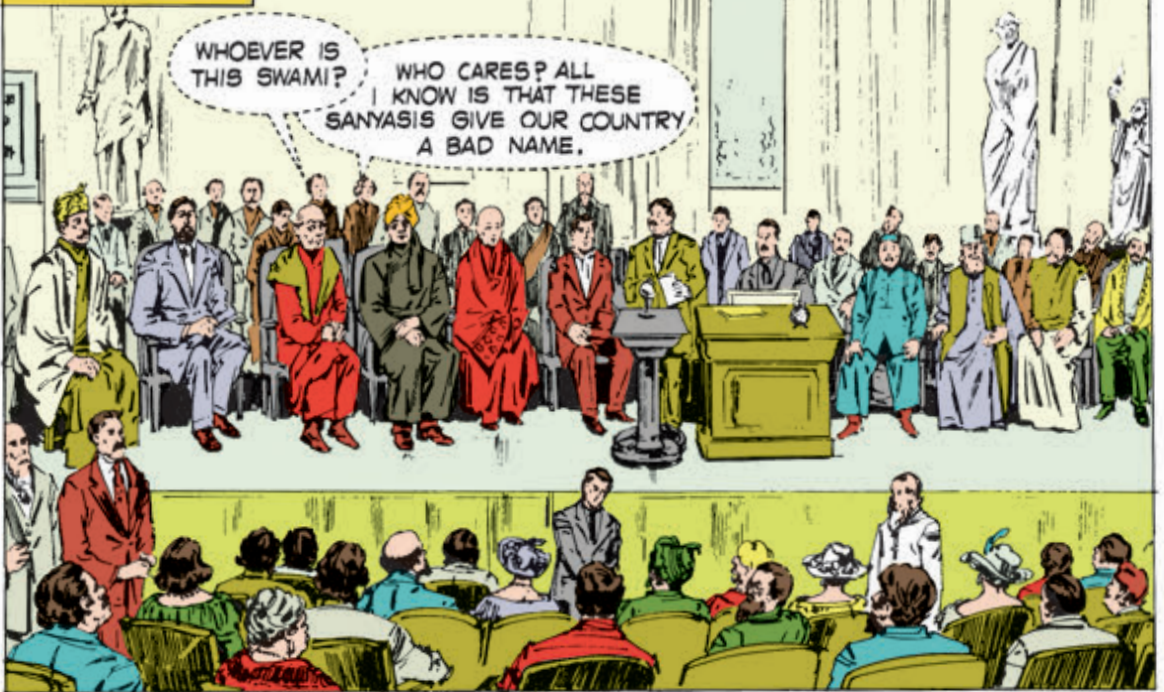
AFTER HE HAD EATEN . . .



. . . AND RESTED, SHE TOOK HIM TO THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT.



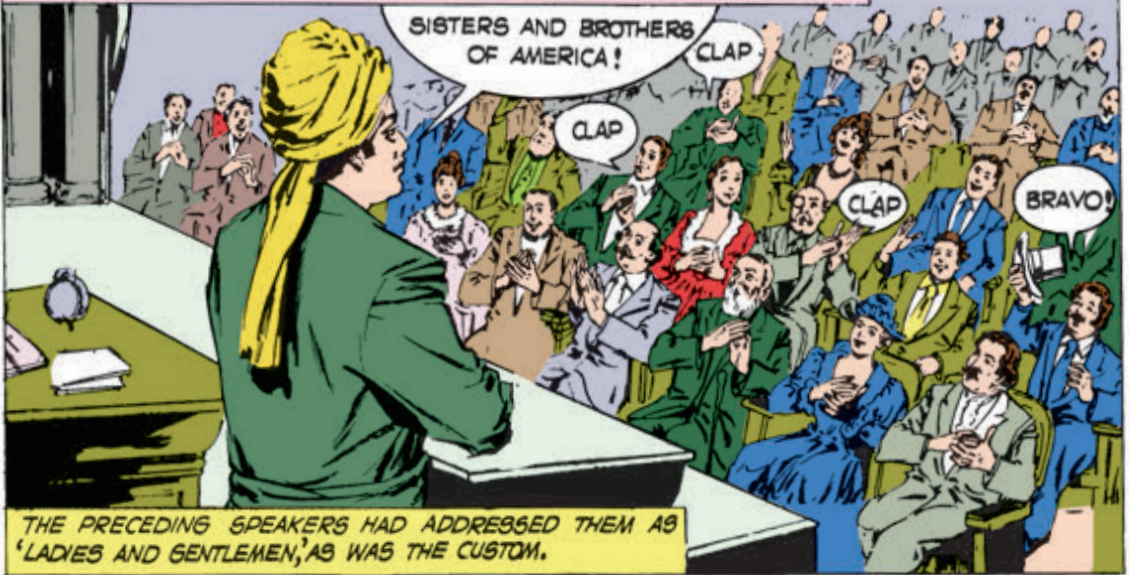
AT THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS, THE OFFICIAL DELEGATES FROM INDIA RESENTED HIS PRESENCE THERE.



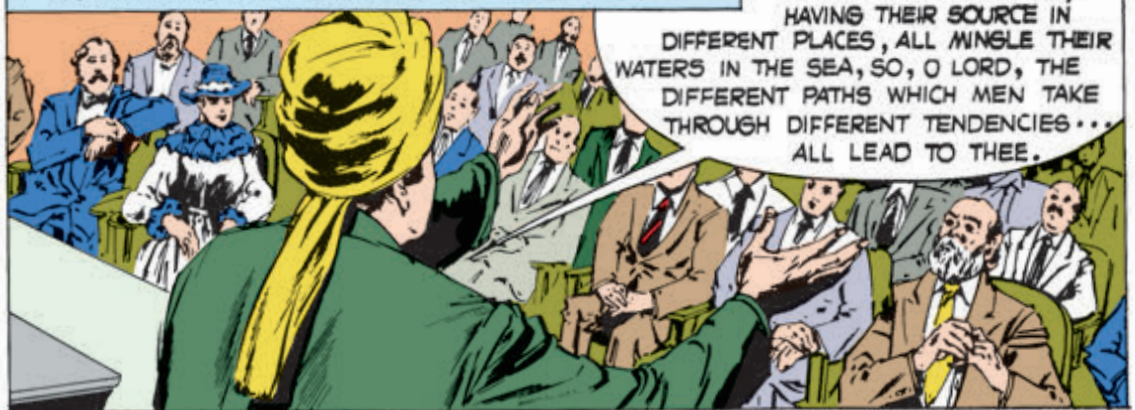
AFTER THE LONG-WINDED SPEECHES CAME VIVEKANANDA'S TURN.



WITH TREMBLING HEART AND A SILENT PRAYER TO SARASWATI*, VIVEKANANDA ROSE TO SPEAK. THE VAST AUDIENCE WAS THRILLED BY HIS VERY FIRST WORDS.



IT TOOK FULL TWO MINUTES BEFORE THE TUMULT SUBSIDED.



VIVEKANANDA HAD SUCCEEDED IN EXPLAINING WHAT GOD MEANT TO THE HINDU MIND. IT WAS A LUCID EXPLANATION. IT MOVED THE LISTENERS.



WHEN IT WAS OVER, SCORES OF MEN AND WOMEN WALKED OVER THE BENCHES IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO MEET HIM.



* HINDU GODDESS OF WISDOM.

THE NEXT DAY, THE NEWSPAPERS CARRIED GLOWING HEADLINES ABOUT THE SWAMI WHO HAD CAPTURED EVERYBODY'S IMAGINATION.



HE WAS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION EVERYWHERE.



THAT WAS THE END OF VIVEKANANDA'S TROUBLES IN THE U.S.A. HE WAS LIONISED EVERYWHERE, BUT HE REMAINED UNAFFECTED.



HIS LECTURES WOULD DRAW LARGE CROWDS.



VIVEKANANDA WENT FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER AND SPOKE WHENEVER REQUESTED TO DO SO.

ONE DAY IN TEXAS, INSTIGATED BY SOME FANATIC CHRISTIANS, THE AUDIENCE BECAME ROUGH. THEY MADE HIM STAND ON A BARREL AND SPEAK.

HE IS AN ATHEIST WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN HIMSELF! THE OLD RELIGIONS SAID THAT HE WAS AN ATHEIST WHO DID NOT BELIEVE IN GOD! THE NEW RELIGION TELLS YOU THAT HE IS AN ATHEIST WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN HIMSELF!

LET'S SEE IF HE PRACTISES WHAT HE PREACHES.

YEAH!
YEAH!



HE WAS PELTED WITH TOMATOES AND EGGS. SOME EVEN TOOK OUT THEIR PISTOLS AND FIRED SHOTS IN THE AIR.

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IS THE HISTORY OF A FEW MEN WHO HAD FAITH IN THEMSELVES. THAT FAITH CALLS OUT THE DIVINITY WITHIN. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!

HA! HA!

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, MAN!



BUT VIVEKANANDA WAS UNPERTURBED. THE CROWD WAS AMAZED.

YOU FAIL ONLY WHEN YOU DO NOT STRIVE SUFFICIENTLY TO MANIFEST INFINITE POWER.

MY GOD, THIS MAN HAS COURAGE.

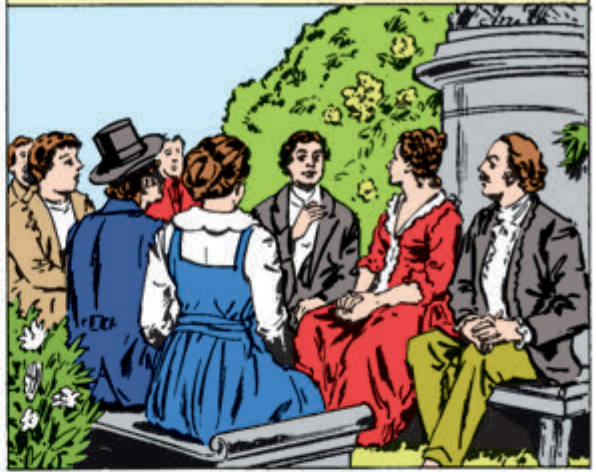
I AM BEGINNING TO SEE WHAT HE MEANS.



THE SWAMI TALKED TO MEN AND WOMEN, THE RICH AND THE POOR ALIKE.



AT THOUSAND ISLAND PARK, HE EXPLAINED THE PROFOUND PHILOSOPHY OF YOGA AND VEDANTA TO TWELVE SELECTED DISCIPLES.*



FROM THE U.S.A., VIVEKANANDA PROCEEDED TO ENGLAND WHERE HE LECTURED EXTENSIVELY. ONE DAY, AT A SMALL MEETING —



SWAMIJI, I WANT YOU TO MEET A YOUNG FRIEND.

HER NAME IS MARGARET NOBLE. SHE RUNS A SMALL SCHOOL.

WHY ARE YOU SHY, SISTER?



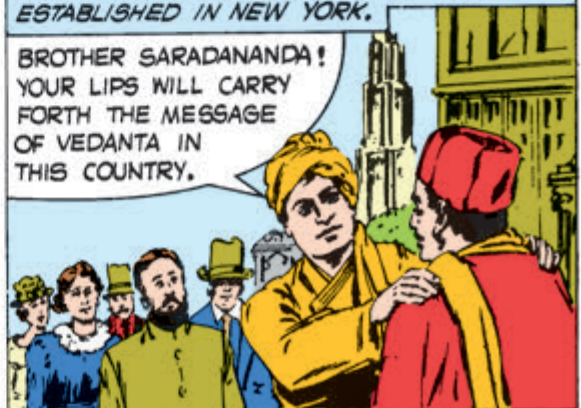
FOR MISS NOBLE, THE SWAMI SOON BECAME AN OBJECT OF REVERENCE.



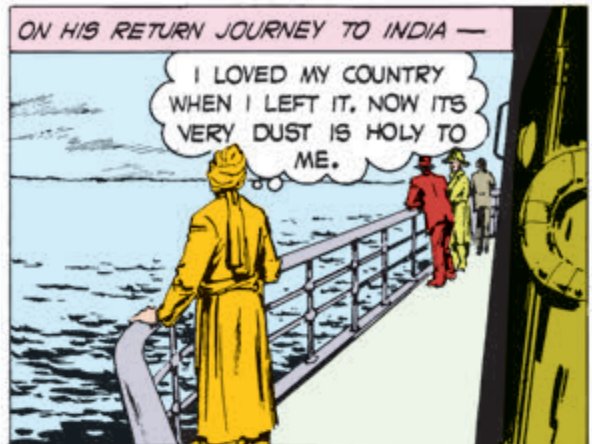
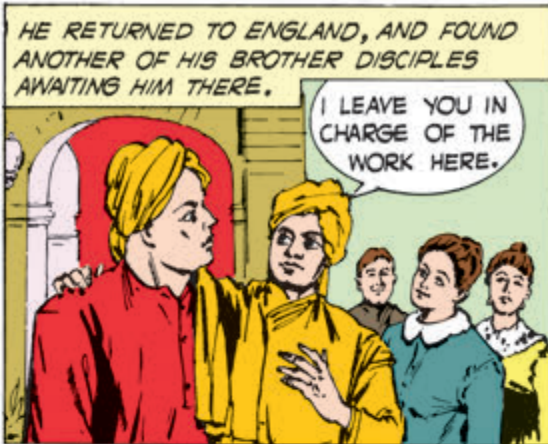
SWAMIJI, YOU WILL COME AGAIN, WON'T YOU?

DURING HIS SECOND VISIT TO AMERICA, HE ESTABLISHED HIS WORK ON A MORE SOLID FOUNDATION. A VEDANTA SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED IN NEW YORK.

BROTHER SARADANANDA! YOUR LIPS WILL CARRY FORTH THE MESSAGE OF VEDANTA IN THIS COUNTRY.



* IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT HIS FAMOUS WORK, RAJA YOGA WAS WRITTEN.



HE FIRST REACHED COLOMBO ON JANUARY 15, 1897. THE WELCOME THERE WAS WARM, TRIUMPHANT AND TUMULTUOUS. THOUSANDS FLUNG THEMSELVES ON THE GROUND TO TOUCH HIS FEET.



HIS DEPARTURE FROM INDIA WAS UNANNOUNCED; HIS RETURN, A NATIONAL EVENT. AT RAMNAD, SOME EAGER MEN REMOVED THE HORSES FROM HIS CARRIAGE AND PULLED IT THEMSELVES. THE RAJA OF RAMNAD WAS ONE OF THEM.



THE WORDS HE SPOKE AT RAMNAD STIRRED THE SOUL OF THE NATION.

THE SLEEPING CORPSE APPEARS TO BE AWAKENING... INDIA, THIS MOTHERLAND OF OURS, FROM DEEP, LONG SLEEP... NEVER IS SHE GOING TO SLEEP ANY MORE! NO OUTSIDE POWERS CAN HOLD HER BACK ANY MORE! FOR THE INFINITE GIANT IS RISING TO HER FEET!



FROM RAMNAD TO MADRAS AND TO CALCUTTA, WHEREVER HE WENT, THE CROWDS YEARNED TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF HIM. THE YOUNG MEN OF THE COUNTRY WERE INSPIRED BY HIS WORDS.

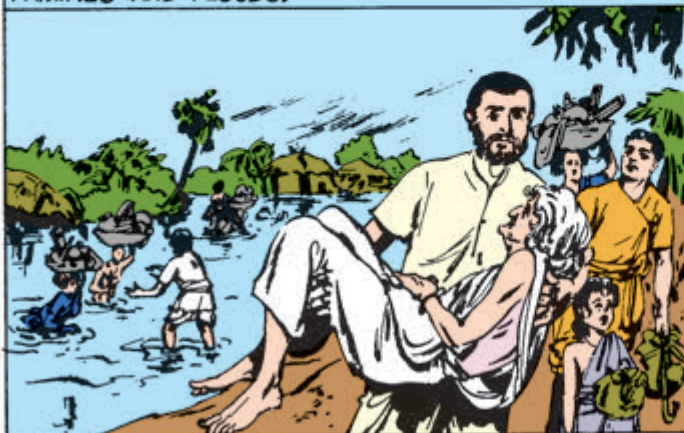
NONE IS REALLY WEAK... STAND UP! ASSERT YOURSELF, PROCLAIM THE GOD WITHIN YOU! DO NOT DENY HIM! ARISE! AWAKE! AND STOP NOT TILL THE GOAL IS REACHED!



VIVEKANANDA ORGANISED HIS FELLOW SANYASIS INTO A DEDICATED BAND OF SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL WORKERS. THEY NURSED THE SICK, FED THE POOR...



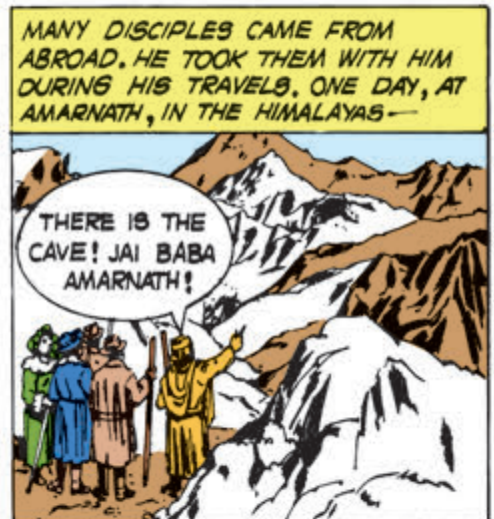
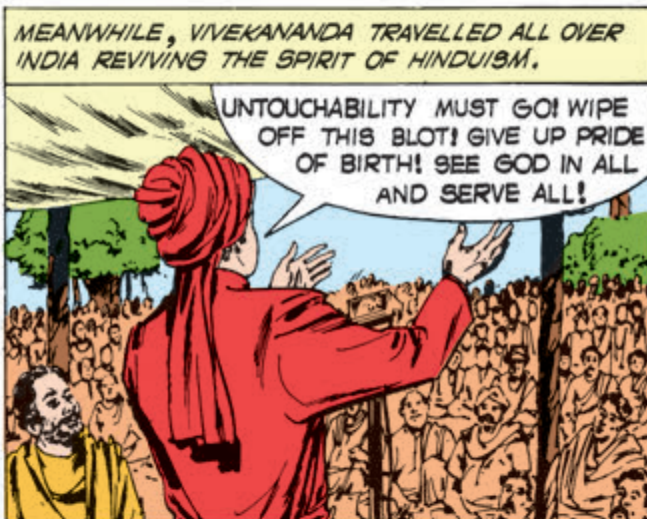
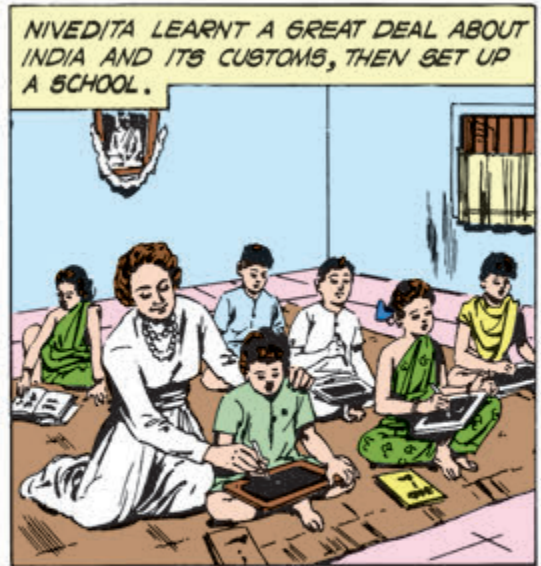
... AND RENDERED HELP TO THE NEEDY DURING FAMINES AND FLOODS.



ONE DAY, A VISITOR FROM ENGLAND ARRIVED.

SWAMIJI, REMEMBER ME? I AM MARGARET. I HAVE COME TO DEDICATE MYSELF TO YOU AND TO YOUR GREAT MISSION.





WHILE IN CALCUTTA, HE FORMALLY CONSECRATED THE RAMAKRISHNA MONASTERY AT BELUR AS THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE RAMAKRISHNA ORDER.



AND THEN PAID A VISIT TO THE SPIRITUAL CENTRES ESTABLISHED BY HIM IN THE WEST.



MEANWHILE, THE RAMAKRISHNA ORDER DEVOTED ITSELF TO THE SERVICE OF THE POOR.

ALAS, IN OUR COUNTRY THE POOR REMAIN WRETCHED. BUT THEY ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR NATION.



THEY FED THE POOR, MANY OF WHOM WERE SANTHAL TRIBALS.



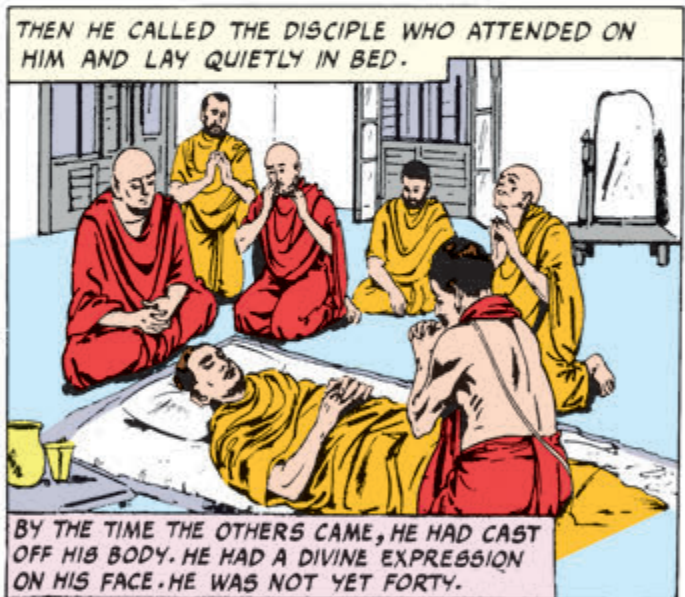
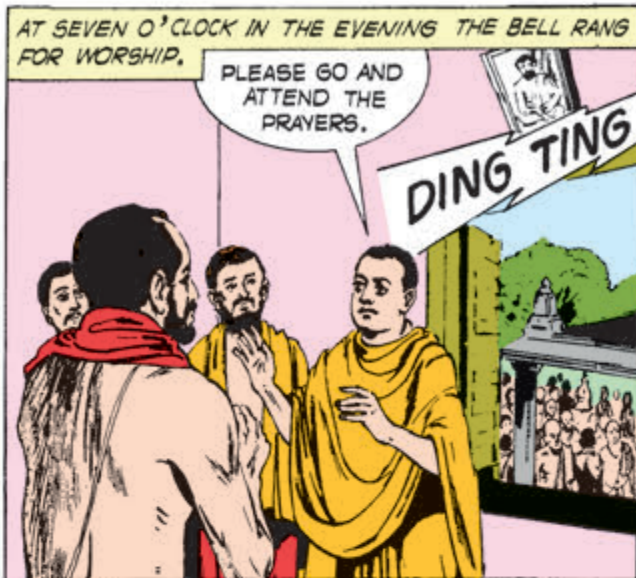
WHY DO YOU FUSS SO MUCH OVER THOSE SANTHALS?

THEY ARE AS MUCH THE CHILDREN OF GOD AS YOU OR I.

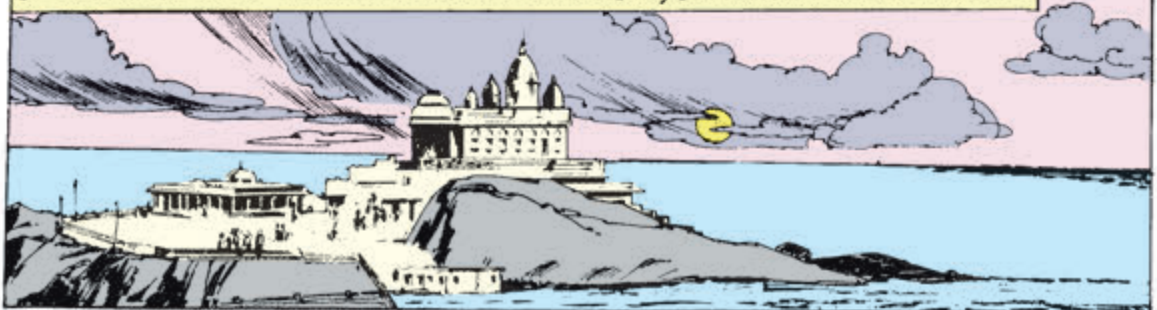


HIS HEALTH HAD BEGUN TO FAIL. ON JULY 4, 1902, HE PARTOOK OF THE NOON MEAL WITH HIS DISCIPLES.





TODAY, A MAGNIFICENT MEMORIAL STANDS AT KANYAKUMARI, AT THE VERY SPOT WHERE, MANY YEARS AGO, HE HAD DISCOVERED HIS LIFE'S TWIN MISSION OF ELEVATING THE MASSES OF HIS COUNTRY AND PREACHING INDIA'S UNIVERSAL, SPIRITUAL MESSAGE ABROAD.



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
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Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vaasudeva
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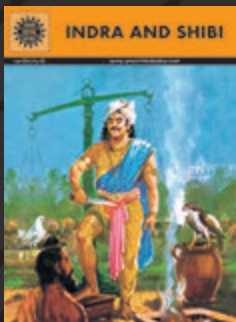
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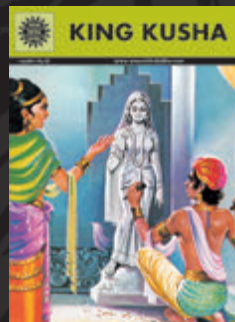
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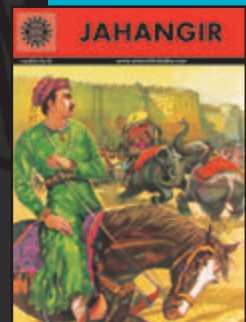
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